



The French group from Provence in the line of march.

On Friday afternoon each country assembled under its own flag and with their musicians from each country for a Festival march through Oslo. About the time the parade was scheduled to start the heaviest rain of the week came down and dancers and spectators scurried for whatever shelter was handy around the City Hall. Again the Morris dancers took our minds off the weather by performing on a wide window ledge of the City Hall. The rain let up enough for the parade to start. It was a busy week for the dance teams as some of the performed in cities outside of Oslo such as Sarpsborg, Moss, Honefos, Drammer, Lilestrom.

The two biggest evenings were the play performances in Jordal Amphitheatre in Oslo on Friday and Saturday evenings. We would probably call these exhibitions. They were witnessed by some 10,000 people each evening. The program always started with the flag parade in which all dance teams marched to the music of their own musicians. Before the regular program started the children's teams from Trondheim and Oslo gave demonstrations. Following is the program translated as much as possible from Norwegian.

#### Friday, July 1

**Sweden:** East Goteborg Polka and Weaving Dance — by Swedish Young People's dance group for study of valley culture.

**Saar:** Es war einmal ein Gartner and In der schonen Rosenzeit — folk dances.

**England:** Cotswold Morris Dances — Rapper Sword Dance — King's College.

**Finland:** Fisticuff Polka, English cooking, Dance of Eight Angels and Oravals minuet.

**Fareoe Islands:** Songs and dancing without instruments.

**Norway:** "I rode out on the victory shallow", song sparrows, dances from Setesdal and Halling and the Sixmans-reel by Norwegian Young People's Association.

**Isle of Man:** Folk Songs in Gaelic without accompaniment by Ellynyn ny Gael.

**Czechoslovakia:** Girls and village musicians songs and Shepherd boys games, Valazka, and Trnka by Jasenka Folksongs and Dance Group.

**Austria:** Laufenbacher Sword Dance, Schleuniger, a polka and Jodler by Bachl Group.

**Soviet-Union:** Songs by Fjodorov sisters, Pjatnitskij choir from Moscow and dances — Folk music from Ukraine.

#### Saturday, July 2, 1955

**Denmark:** Captain Kraen's Firetur — by Danish Folk Dancers.

**France:** Les Jadinieres — Les cordelles — Les fiellous — Les chivau — frus Lei Tambourinaire de Sant Sumian.

**Finland:** Cheesmaker's Dance — Lapland Quadrille — Riian vaali — Humahus. — Finnish Kansantanssin Ystävät.



The Macedonian dancers from Yugoslavia performing their native Horos at the International Folk Festival in Oslo.

**England:** Royton Morris Dance by Manley Morris Dancers.

**Iceland:** The Moon Shines High in the Sky — Watchman of the fjord — Thora songs in rhyme — Hoffinn. A singing dance — Ring of Bread Vikivaki. — by Thjoddan-safelag from Reykjavikur.

**Norway:** Springer from Telemark, Walking Dance from Telen ark and Halling Dance — by Norway's Young People's Association.

**Sweden:** Snurrebocken — Four Man's Danec — Shoemaker's Dance — by Swedish Young People's Group.

**Czechoslovakia:** Folksongs from Fajara. — Eitt par from Slovakia.

**Soviet-Union —** Zumbalist from Kviterussland.

**Germany:** Schwertle dance — by Schwertle Dancers Ueberlingen.

**Yugoslavia:** Kalajdzisko — White Girl — Kopacka — Pasha sat down — Teska Krstacka — Group from Skopje in Makedonia.

There were some changes and some switching of performances each evening, but this was taken from the printed program. In spite of a heavy rain towards the end of the second evening's performances the program went on as scheduled and the Yugoslavian team seemed to perform just as spirited as ever in spite of a slippery wet platform. The spectators huddled under umbrellas, newspapers or sought shelter at the top of the bleachers and did not leave until the show was over. It was all too colorful and interesting to miss. Following the regular programs dancers met to finish the evening with what we would call a folk dance mixer in either Samfunnshuset or Engineer's House. Abundant Norwegian refreshments were available, especially those intriguing open-faced sandwiches.

On Sunday special service was held in Oslo Cathedral and in the afternoon more play performances in Norsk Folkemuseum on Bygdoy, an interesting place to visit because of the polar ship Fram, the Viking museum, Kon Tiki, and all the interesting old farm buildings and churches that have been preserved.

Even when there isn't a Festival visitors may frequently see folk dancers performing in the open air theatre in Bygdoy.

When asked how this festival differed from our festivals the answer was the scope of the project and more important the fact that none of the dancing was done to records as we have to in this country, but all to live music on native folk music instruments. It made a difference. Also there was more singing and dancing together and sometime singing by the dancers was the only musical

accompaniment. Always the evenings ended with play and fun, meaning more folk dancing for everybody.

Miss Margery Moore and I joined a folklore tour from Seattle led by Gordon Tracie and we also were housed in the new University dormitory Studentbyen in Oslo which provided very modern and reasonable living quarters. Most of the dance teams were housed in these dormitories and we had a chance to visit with some of the members, hear them practicing or singing. We certainly had an international week long to be remembered.



#### THE AMERICAN COWBOY: A VERY MIXED ORIGIN

He was born an Easterner, rode a Moorish horse, took his ways from Mexico, and became a legend. His famous title: American cowboy.

Today, often enough, the cowboy is a college man. He inspects electric fences in a Piper Cub plane. His range reaches to the Florida Everglades; he ranches near Philadelphia, or on the prairies of Long Island. He's capitalist.

Where did the first cowboy come from, however? From Ireland, from Spain, from backwoods Massachusetts, from tidewater Virginia. He rode a long trail to become a hero of the Old West.

According to Webster's dictionary, a "cowboy" is (1) a boy who tends cows, (2) a Tory marauder and cattle-raider north of New York City in the Revolutionary War, and (3) a mounted western cattle herder. Both word and job are older than 1776 in this country, yet at the same time considerably younger. Red and black cattle grazed on the Commons of Jamestown and in Puritan Massachusetts by 1635. About 1655 — a full 300 years ago — cattle were driven east to Boston from the then farwest outpost of Springfield on the Connecticut River.

Though English and Scotsmen used "cowherd" or "drover", the word "cowboy" was known in the colonies by 1670. Irish fieldhands may have brought it, for the term occurs in Irish ballads of 1,000 years ago.

Cattle were known in the New World 150 years before 1670. Small sharp-horned Andalusian cattle and fine-bred Barbary horses came to Mexico with the Spanish conquerors within 30 years after Columbus sighted the American shores. The explorer, Francisco Coronado, took cattle north of the Rio Grande in 1540. It was prophetic, perhaps, that the first white man to cross Texas was Cabeza de Vaca, whose name meant "Head of a Cow".

Huge Spanish haciendas (estates) spread cattle north on the grassy Mexican tablelands. Herds ran wild and multiplied. Half-wild vaqueros — "cowboys" — rounded them up to burn or cut the owner's brand on the calves. From these Mexican vaqueros, Scottish and English frontiersmen drifting into what is now Texas learned their trade and forged a cattle kingdom. Their animals, their tools, even their words were Mexican: mustang, sombrero, poncho corral, bronco, adobe, vigilante, vamoose, stampede.

But no market existed for Texas cattle. All possible selling points were too far away. Herds grew larger still. Then came the California gold rush in 1849 and the crossing of the continent. The railroads followed. At the Civil War's end the "Iron Trail" reached west into Kansas, and Texas herds began moving north to meet it. Over the Red River, amid clouds of dust and the whoops of hard-driving saddle-bred cowhands, longhorns streamed by the millions — gaunt, bawling, wild-eyed beef on the hoof.

They surged into the Kansas towns of Abilene, Ellsworth, Newton, Wichita, and Dodge City. Other herds moved on north, following the Long Trail to Wyoming's lush grass, Montana, and Alberta, Canada. They went west to New Mexico, Arizona, and even Nevada. They took a new Texas-style life with them.

The cowboy rode into national hero-worship on the Chisholm Trail only 90 years ago. Yet he is four centuries old on this continent. His longhorn cattle now are almost an extinct breed. White-faced Herefords, glossy black Angus, Shorthorns — tamer, meatier breeds — have taken over the range. The cowboy, too, is tamer now. (c. c.)



**ROMERIAS:** Cecilia Czakacs, well known Hungarian dance teacher from New Jersey, spent her summer in the Balkan countries, coming back with many new dances... Cecilia Benrath, popular lass of San Francisco, went East, visiting various Kolo Klubs. She came back with many exciting impressions... Robert McBroom, accomplished musician of Toronto and Montreal (Canada) studied this past summer in Munich, Germany, and wished he could remain there longer... Well-loved red-head nurse of Spivak, Colo, Ruth Rosenbaum, left to vacation in Germany, her former home... Angelina Pan, San Diego's own Hispanic dancer, flew to Havana to investigate the dance situation.

Lt. Col Wayne and Clarice Wills, gave up their Chateau in France and were transferred to the Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, W. Va. . . Hector Rangel, Fresno's well loved Hispanic and Mexican dancer & leader, reported into Uncle Sam's army on July 28th. He'll be greatly missed in Fresno. Before receiving the call he spent a pleasant week San Diego. . . The VILTIS dancers "also" celebrated the French Bastille Day when they participated with a group of four French dances along with all other San Diego Frenchmen at the House of Pacific Relation, Balboa Park.

Nelda Lindsey, the fiery Mexican dancer of Laredo, Texas, had planned to make a romeria (pilgrimage) to Latin America but landed in the hospital and had her appendix removed. . . Sarah Gertrude Knott of the National Folk Festival Fame likewise had an operation for gall stones while visiting in Princeton, Ky. But all is well now and is at present in St. Martinville, La., conducting the Acadian the festival. . . Alfdan Baadsgaard, Handsome Dane from Minneapolis who received many scholarships to study in Switzerland is finally returning home with a doctorate for "Technischen Wissenschaft" (Technical Knowledge). For the past 2 years he even held an assistant professorship. Germany for her sister's wedding, whirlwind camps and That's our Bud! . . . Jane Farwell Hinrichs flew in from institutes and back again to Germany on Oct. 24th, after a two-day work shop with the Hermans.

Dr. Vic Knivett, the talented Scot who is now with the U. of Wis. Dept. of Physical Chemistry, in Madison, is supervising the Scottish dancing in "Brigadoon", to be presented by the Madison Theatre Guild. Vic is excellent in his Scottish dancing and dances with a masculine flavor instead of like faeries in drag. . . JCRS Branch in Harford had James Roosevelt as guest of honor at their shindig.

Cmdr. & Mrs. Wm. Francis, formerly of San Diego and now in Japan, being true folklorists, are now studying up on Japanese customs. They learend the popular "Tangko" and also witnessed a "Kariage-Matsuri", a Rice Harvest festival . . . Evelyn Prewett, former dance teacher in San Diego and now holding a supervisors position in a Guam hospital, didn't sit danceless for too long. Soon after she started organizing a folk dance group.

Mrs. Alice Mauck who was the head resident at the Chicago's Fellowship house for the past 30 years, retired from her position. Testimonials of gratitude and appreciation were extended to her by all the neighbors, friends leaders for a wonderful job in neighborliness and assistance in every way and form. A sincere thanks from me, too. God bless you.

The Minnesotans lost another popular folk and square dance leader when Arden Johnson moved to Los Angeles where he accepted a position with the Physical Education Department of the University of Calif., Los Angeles. He will also be teaching folk and square dancing. Arden is an "Ardent" friend of VILTIS and it's associates and we wish